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10/510,228

10/13/2004

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28569

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7590

07/10/2008

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EXAMINER

PHAM, TAMMY T

ART UNIT

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2629

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/510,228 | Applicant(s) ALTMAN ET AL. | |
| | Examiner TAMMY PHAM | Art Unit 2629 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-102 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-35,40-46,50-75,78,79 and 83-102 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,36-39,47-49,76,77 and 80-82 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 98-102 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Group II, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 17 April 2008.

2. Applicant elected Group I and Species VI (Fig. 6). Figure six is drawn to a decoding unit, which is taught in claims 1, 36-39, 47-49, 76-77, 80-82. These claims are analyzed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 1, 36-38, 47-49, 76-77, 80-81, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by KITADA et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,798,403 B2).

4. **In regards to independent claim 1**, KITADA teaches of a position detection system (Fig. 2a, item 300) for use in association with computing applications (Fig. 2a, item PC), the system (Fig. 2a, item 300) comprising:

5. a positional element (Fig. 2a, item 101) for attaining a position and comprising a first emitter (Fig. 2a, item 301) for emitting a substantially continuous ultrasonic waveform decodable to fix the position, and

6. a detector arrangement (Fig. 2a, items 104a-b) for detecting the waveform in a manner permitting fixing of the position and outputting the waveform for computation, in a manner retentive of the position fixing ability (column 3, lines 19-25).

7. **In regards to independent claim 76**, KITADA teaches of a position detection system (Fig. 2a, item 300) of a computing device (Fig. 2a, item PC), the system (Fig. 2a, item 300) comprising:

8. a positional element (Fig. 2a, item 101) for attaining a position and comprising an ultrasonic continuous waveform emitter (Fig. 2a, item 301) for emitting an ultrasonic continuous waveform decodable to fix the position,

9. a detector arrangement (Fig. 2a, item 204a-b) for detecting the waveform in a manner permitting fixing of the position, and
a signal decoder (Fig. 2a, item 200) for receiving the waveform from the arrangement and decoding the attained position from the waveform (column 3, lines 19-25).

10. **In regards to claim 36**, KITADA teaches that the system (Fig. 2a, item 300) further comprises a decoding unit (Fig. 2a, item 200) for carrying out the computation to decode the waveform and indicate the position (column 3, lines 19-25).

11. **In regards to claim 37**, KITADA teaches that the decoding unit (Fig. 2a, item 200) comprises a maximum likelihood detector (Fig. 2a, item 200) for carrying out the decoding by finding a most likely distance (column 3, lines 10-13).

12. **In regards to claim 38**, KITADA teaches that the maximum likelihood detector (Fig. 2a, item 200) comprises a channel model for modeling passage of the waveform from the positional element (Fig. 2a, item 101) to the waveform decoding unit (Fig. 2a, item 200), thereby to provide a reference signal against which to identify the most likely distance (column 3, lines 35-40).

13. **In regards to claim 47**, KITADA teaches that the waveform decoding unit (Fig. 2a, item 200) is provided as a client program for installation in a computing device (Fig. 2a, item 300).

14. **In regards to claim 48**, KITADA teaches that the waveform decoding unit (Fig. 2a, item 200) is provided as a client program for installation in an operating system of a computing device (Fig. 2a, item PC).

15. **In regards to claim 49**, KITADA teaches that the waveform decoding unit (Fig. 2a, item 200) is integrated with the detector arrangement (Fig. 2a, item 204a-b).

16. **In regards to claim 77**, KITADA teaches that the detector arrangement (Fig. 2a, item 204a-b) and the signal decoder (Fig. 2a, item 200) are connected via an analog link.

17. **In regards to claim 80**, KITADA teaches that the detection arrangement (Fig. 2a, items 204a-b) comprises a plurality of signal detectors (Fig. 2a, items 204a-b) arranged at different

locations each separately to detect the waveform, thereby to provide the position fixing as differential information between the detected signals (Fig. 2a).

18. **In regards to claim 81**, KITADA teaches that the signal decoder (Fig. 2a, item 200) comprises at least one reference signal constructed using a model of the system and a maximum likelihood detector (Fig. 2a, item 200) for determining a most likely position based on the reference signal (column 3, lines 35-40).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

19. Claims 39, 82, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over KITADA et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,798,403 B2) in view of XU (U.S. Publication No.: 2002/0176577 A1).

20. **In regards to claims 39, 82**, KITADA fails to teach that the detector is followed by a correlator for confirming the most likely distance.

21. XU teaches that the detector is followed by a correlator for confirming the most likely distance (section [0028]).

22. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a correlator for confirmation as taught by XU with the detector of KITADA

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in order to authenticate the information being detected, such as the position or a signature (XU, section [0001]).

Conclusion

23. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tammy Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7773. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30 (Mon-Fri).

24. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

25. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TP
24 June 2008

Tammy Pham
/Tammy Pham/
Examiner, Art Unit 2629

/Sumati Lefkowitz/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629